



**Park Avenue Armory Recital Series Features
Intimate Performances in the Historic Board of Officers Room**

**Second Annual Series Includes Performances by FLUX Quartet,
and Igor Levit, István Várdai, Anna Lucia Richter
in their New York Solo Recital Debuts**

Series Begins March 12, 2014

New York, NY – February 25, 2014 – Park Avenue Armory presents its second annual recital series in the newly reopened Board of Officers Room, beginning March 12, 2014. The exquisitely renovated space provides audiences the opportunity to experience chamber music as it was originally intended—in a glorious, intimate salon setting. The recital series features artists performing repertoire spanning more than two centuries—including an all-Beethoven program by pianist **Igor Levit** in his North American recital debut; Morton Feldman’s String Quartet No. 2, a six-hour feat of endurance performed by the **FLUX Quartet**; a Bach program by cellist **István Várdai** in his North American recital debut; and German soprano **Anna Lucia Richter** performing an all Hugo Wolf program for her U.S. recital debut.

“Music has a long and rich history at the Armory, from the American premiere of the Berlioz Requiem to the celebration of composer Philip Glass in 2012 to our inaugural recital series last year and upcoming performances by Indie band *the xx*,” said Armory President and Executive Producer Rebecca Robertson. “We are thrilled to continue to enable a remarkable range of music presentations of all genres—from massive, large-scale productions to intimate chamber recitals—and to share the work of these extraordinary musicians from around the globe.”

“The recital series—held in the stunning Board of Officers Room—offers a rare opportunity to witness major new talent in New York,” said Armory Artistic Director Alex Poots. “Following a successful inauguration of the series last autumn by one of the greatest living baritone voices for Lieder, Christian Gerhaher, we are excited to continue to welcome and showcase some of today’s leading interpreters of classic repertoire – from the rising star Igor Levit and his masterful interpretation of Beethoven’s sonatas to New York’s very own FLUX Quartet and their fearless performance of Morton Feldman’s String Quartet No. 2.”

Park Avenue Armory’s dynamic platforms—from the massive, 55,000-square-foot Wade Thompson Drill Hall to the exquisite historic period rooms—catalyze new kinds of experiences for New York audiences that could not be realized in traditional concert halls, theaters, and museum galleries. The Armory’s 2014 season includes a mix of presentations and commissions that break new ground for artists and audiences—including the upcoming series of performances by British Indie band, *the xx*; the U.S. premiere of Kenneth Branagh and Rob Ashford’s visceral staging of *Macbeth*; Mieczyslaw Weinberg’s epic opera *The Passenger*, a co-production with Lincoln Center Festival; Peter Sellars’ staging of Bach’s choral masterpiece *St. Matthew Passion*, a co-production with the Lincoln Center White Light Festival; and the world premiere of the Armory’s sixth major visual art commission, a collaboration between artist Douglas Gordon and pianist Hélène Grimaud. More information on the season is available at armoryonpark.org.

2014 RECITAL SERIES

IGOR LEVIT, PIANO

Wednesday, March 12 at 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 13 at 8:00 p.m.

All Beethoven Program

Piano Sonata No. 30 in E Major, Op. 109

Piano Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, Op. 110

Piano Sonata No. 32 in C minor, Op. 111

Tickets \$35; available at armoryonpark.org / (212) 933-5812

About Igor Levit

The 2013-14 season marks Igor Levit's debuts with the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and the Royal Flemish Philharmonic Antwerpen. He returns to London's Barbican Hall performing Beethoven's Tripelkonzert with the BBC Symphony Orchestra joined by Maxim Vengerov and Antonio Meneses. Together with the Düsseldorfer Symphoniker Igor Levit will perform Tchaikovsky's piano concerto at the Musikverein Vienna. An active solo recitalist, he will perform at the Berlin Philharmonie, Cologne Philharmonie, Munich's Prinzregententheater, Frankfurts's Alte Oper Frankfurt, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, Milan's Conservatorio Sala Verdi, and Zurich's famed Tonhalle. In spring 2014 Igor Levit returns to Ludwigsburger Sommerfestspiele, the Schumann Fest Düsseldorf, as well as to the Festival Heidelberger Frühling where he serves as Artistic Director for the Chamber Music Academy. In summer 2014 he is Artist in Residence at the Kissinger Sommer as well as at the Festival Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The latter comprises his debut with the Deutsches-Symphonie-Orchester Berlin under the baton of Tugan Sokhiev and projects with Kremerata Baltica and the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen. At the Schubertiade Igor Levit continues his Beethoven Sonata cycle which began in autumn 2013 to great critical acclaim.

Born in Nizhni Nowgorod in 1987, Igor Levit at age eight moved with his family to Germany where he completed his piano studies at Hannover Academy of Music, Theatre, and Media in 2009 with the highest academic and performance scores in the history of the institute. Mr. Levit has studied under the tutelage of Karl-Heinz Kämmerling, Matti Raekallio, Bernd Goetze, Lajos Rovatkay, and Hans Leygraf. As the youngest participant in the 2005 Arthur Rubinstein Competition in Tel Aviv, Igor Levit won the Silver Prize, the Prize for Best Performer of Chamber Music, the "Audience Favorite" Prize, and the Prize for Best Performer of Contemporary Music. Previously, he had won the First Prize of the International Hamamtsu Piano Academy Competition in Japan. Since 2003 Igor Levit has been a scholarship student at Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes as well as at Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben. Igor Levit makes his home in Hannover.

FLUX QUARTET

Saturday, April 26 at 3:00 p.m.

Morton Feldman's String Quartet No. 2

Tickets \$40; available at armoryonpark.org / (212) 933-5812

About FLUX Quartet

Considered the ultimate masters of Morton Feldman's 6-hour String Quartet from 1983. David Patrick Stearns (Philadelphia Inquirer) proclaimed, "this piece oozes a rarefied, spiritual air... The FLUX Quartet made all the difference...The players displayed an astounding ear for sound that made each gradation of

timbre palpable." Alex Ross (New Yorker) described FLUX's live performance as "a disorienting, transfixing experience that repeatedly approached and touched the sublime." They have performed at Carnegie's Zankel Hall, the Kennedy Center, Walker Art Center, in Mexico at the Chihuahua International Arts Festival, and in Ireland at the Samuel Beckett Centenary Festival, the Kitchen in NYC, Bowerbird in Philadelphia, EMPAC, and have been heard on NPR's All Things Considered, WNYC's New Sounds and Soundcheck, and WFMU's Stochastic Hit Parade. Last summer they made their debut at Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. Their recordings include a new Feldman CD up and coming from MODE Records, and other composer compilations on the Tzadik, Innova, Cantaloupe, and Cold Blue Music labels. New dates include Bendigo International Festival of Exploratory Music in Australia, the Park Avenue Armory, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Le Jolla Summerfest, Calgary Pro Musica with Evan Ziporyn, and more.

FLUX Quartet moves between the great works of Gyorgy Ligeti, Giacinto Scelsi, John Zorn, and Iannis Xenakis to avant jazz greats such as Henry Threadgill, Oliver Lake, and Roscoe Mitchell. They have championed works by avant balloonist Judy Dunaway, Mathew Welch, and have also done significant work in dance, including collaborations with choreographers Shen Wei, Christopher Wheeldon, and Pam Tanowitz. FLUX actively pursues commissions, with recent grants from the American Composers Forum, USArtists International, Aaron Copland Fund, and the Meet-The-Composer Foundation. The group also explores new voices from its numerous college residencies throughout the US, including Wesleyan, Dartmouth, Williams, Princeton, Rice, and the College of William and Mary. The spirit to expand stylistic boundaries is a trademark of the FLUX Quartet. Greatly influenced by the all-embracing philosophy of the Fluxus movement, violinist Tom Chiu founded FLUX with a similar aesthetic approach, in search of a living art for all people with an "anything-goes, do-it-yourself" spirit. To that end, FLUX has always been committed to projects of unique vision that defy aesthetic categorization, such as the monumental work by Feldman.

ISTVÁN VÁRDAI, CELLO

Wednesday, May 21 at 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 22 at 8:00 p.m.

Bach Unaccompanied Cello Suites

Suite No. 1 in G Major, BWV 1007

Suite No. 5 in C Minor, BWV 1001

Suite No. 6 in D Major, BWV 1012

Tickets \$25; available at armoryonpark.org / (212) 933-5812

About István Várdai

István Várdai, the 28-year-old Hungarian cellist was honored with several prestigious international prizes: in 2008 he won the 63rd Geneva International Music Competition, and additional special prizes as well including: Audience Prize, "Pierre Fournier" Prize, "Coup de Coeur Breguet" Prize. He took third place at the International Tchaikovsky Music Competition, Moscow in 2007. In 2006 he was awarded with the special prize of the Emanuel Feuermann Cello Competition at the Kronberg Academy and received first prize at the 13th International Brahms Competition in Austria. He was winner of the David Popper International Music Competition three times, in 2000, 2003, and 2004. Since his debut concert in 1997 in The Hague he has performed in New York, London, Paris, Prague, Vienna, Frankfurt, Munich, Geneva, Dublin, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Florence, Tokyo, Kobe, and Beijing with great success. He has played with world-famous musicians and orchestras: Ádám Fischer, Zoltán Kocsis, Howard Griffiths, Simon Gaudenz, Gilbert Varga, St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, Geneva Chamber Orchestra, Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra, and Irish Chamber Orchestra. He has been invited to Santander Festival, the Gergiev Festival in St. Petersburg, the Pablo Casals Festival in El Vendrell (Spain), the Festival of

Radio France in Montpellier, the Bellerive Festival (Switzerland), the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, the Schwetzingen Festival and the Budapest Spring Festival. In 2010 he made his debut, among others, in Carnegie Hall and the Wiener Konzerthaus and performed with Gidon Kremer, András Schiff, and Yuri Bashmet in the frame of "Chamber Music Connects the World 2010" at Kronberg Academy. In 2011 his engagements included performances with the Suisse Romande Orchestra.

ANNA LUCIA RICHTER, SOPRANO

Thursday, October 2 at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 4 at 8:00 p.m.

Monday, October 6 at 8:00 p.m.

All Hugo Wolf Program

Tickets \$25; available at armoryonpark.org / (212) 933-5812

About Anna Lucia Richter

Anna Lucia Richter descends from a family of professional musicians. Since the age of nine she received singing lessons from her mother Regina Dohmen and became a member of the Girls' Choir of the Cologne cathedral. From 2004 to 2008 she received regular lessons with Prof. Kurt Widmer, Basel. Following her early studies with Mrs. Prof. Klesie Kelly-Moog at the Cologne Music Academy she continued her studies in Cologne and finished her advanced study period in the summer of 2013. The artist won prizes at the National Song Contest in Berlin (2nd prize, junior category 2008), the Luitpold Prize at the Kissinger Summer Festival 2011, and the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Prize in 2011. In 2012 she won the International Robert-Schumann Contest in Zwickau. Despite her young age, Richter has had engagements with Cologne's Gürzenich Orchestra, with the hr Symphony Orchestra, the MDR Symphony Orchestra, the Düsseldorf Symphonic Orchestra, and also with the WDR Radio Orchestra under the baton of Markus Stenz, Paavo and Kristjan Järvi, Marin Alsop, Helmut Froschauer, and Christoph Altstaedt she sang works of Bach (*St. Johns Passion* and *St. Matthew's Passion*), Händel (*Messias*), Brahms (*Ein Deutsches Requiem*), Mozart (*C-Minor Mass*), Grieg (*Peer Gynt*) and Mahler (*Symphony N° 4* and *N° 8*). She is also an accomplished opera singer, having had roles in *Hänsel and Gretel (Sandmann/Taumann)*, *Le nozze di Figaro (Barbarina)* and *Don Giovanni (Zerlina)* at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf/Duisburg.

Anna Lucia Richter has had recital appearances at the Kissinger Summer Festival and at the Heidelberg Spring Festival. In 2012 she sang in a last-minute engagement at the Cologne Philharmonic Hall for Matthias Goerne. She was accompanied by Moritz Eggert, Michael Gees, Hartmut Höll, and Igor Levit. In spring 2014 she will give her debut with Gerold Huber and guest perform with him in Wigmore Hall and in Vicenza, accompanied by András Schiff. Apart from the standard repertoire the artist also enjoys including contemporary compositions into her song programmes: In 2011, for instance, the world premiere of Moritz Eggert's *Singet leise* and in 2012 the cycle *Ophelia Sings* by Wolfgang Rihm, which he specially composed for her.

Citi and Bloomberg Philanthropies are the Armory's 2014 season sponsors.

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Support for Park Avenue Armory's artistic season has been generously provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Booth Ferris Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation,

the Marc Haas Foundation, the Leon Levy Foundation, the Juliet Lea Hillman Simonds Foundation, and the Isak and Rose Weinman Foundation.

About Park Avenue Armory

Part palace, part industrial shed, Park Avenue Armory fills a critical void in the cultural ecology of New York by enabling artists to create—and audiences to experience—unconventional work that cannot be mounted in traditional performance halls and museums. With its soaring 55,000-square-foot Wade Thompson Drill Hall—reminiscent of 19th-century European train stations—and array of exuberant period rooms, the Armory offers a new platform for creativity across all art forms.

Since its first production in September 2007—Aaron Young’s *Greeting Card*, a 9,216-square-foot “action” painting created by the burned-out tire marks of ten choreographed motorcycles—the Armory has organized a series of immersive performances, installations, and works of art that have drawn critical and popular attention. Among the highlights of its first six years are: Bernd Alois Zimmermann’s harrowing *Die Soldaten*, in which the audience moved “through the music”; the unprecedented six-week residency of the Royal Shakespeare Company in their own theater rebuilt in the drill hall; a massive digital sound and video environment by Ryoji Ikeda; a sprawling gauzy, multisensory labyrinth created by Ernesto Neto; *the event of a thread*, a site-specific installation by Ann Hamilton; the final performances of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company across three separate stages; the New York Philharmonic performing Karlheinz Stockhausen’s sonic masterpiece *Gruppen* with three orchestras surrounding the audience; and *WS*, by Paul McCarthy, a monumental installation of fantasy, excess and dystopia.

Concurrent with the development of its artistic program, the Armory has undertaken an ongoing \$200-million revitalization of its historic building, named in 2000 among the “100 Most Endangered Historic Sites in the World” by the World Monuments Fund. Designed by architects Herzog & de Meuron, the multiyear project reinvigorates the Armory’s original design while stabilizing, preserving, and renewing the building for future generations. Recent work includes the renovation and restoration of the Park Avenue and Lexington Avenue façades, including the addition of a new copper mansard roof and the revitalization of two historic Company period rooms on the second floor. During the 2013 season, the Armory reopened its Board of Officers Room, one of the most important historic rooms in America and one of the few remaining interiors designed by Herter Brothers, which has been revitalized and transformed into an intimate space for small-scale performances, recitals, and installations.

www.armoryonpark.org.

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